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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether Government made any attempt to secure any other qualified men ? And if they tried and failed may I know where they tried ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" We did not try ; when there are men available there is no necessity for getting other men."

Land Revenue

Enhancement of tax on trees in darkhast lands in Anchetti village.

* 1561 Q.—Rao Bahadur S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the special rate of Rs. 5 per acre for trees on darkhast lands in Anchetti village of Hosur taluk, Salem district, has been raised to Rs. 7–8–0 ;

(b) if so, the reasons for enhancing the rates ;

(c) whether it is a fact that acreage rate of Rs. 5 is still in force in the neighbouring villages of Thaggatti, Urigam, Kottaiyur, Madakkal, Doddamanchi and Natrapalaiyam though these villages are situated in the same locality as Anchetti and are economically as good as the excepted villages ;

(d) whether it is a fact that seigniorage rates are being levied on trees standing on darkhast lands in the above village against precedent, and if so, why ;

(e) whether the Government have received any mahazars from the ryots of the Anchetti village protesting against the raising of the acreage rates and the levying of the seigniorage fees on trees standing on darkhast lands ; and

(f) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter ?

A.—(a) to (d) The Government are not aware that the facts are as suggested. A report has been called for.

(e) & (f) The Government have not received any memorials on the subject.

Minor Irrigation

Expenditure on minor irrigation in the Ceded districts.

* 1562 Q.—Mr. C. OBI REDDI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to minor irrigation—

(a) the amount of money that was allotted for each of the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool during each of the years 1925-26, 1926-27, 1927-28 and 1928-29 ;

(b) the amount of money that was spent out of those allotments ;

(c) what are the reasons for the unexpended balances, if any, out of those allotments, in each district ; and

(d) what is the amount of money that has been allotted for 1929-30, for each of the above districts under that head ?

A.—(a) & (b) A statement [a] giving the information required is attached.

(c) The unexpended balance under Anantapur for 1927-28 was due to the failure of the district officers to notice in time that

[a] Printed as Appendix V on page 271 infra.

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contributions from ryots gave them a larger allotment to spend. The unexpended balance in the other cases is either nil or negligible.

(*d*) The allotment will be made by the Board of Revenue after the demand has been voted by the Legislative Council.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The Council will now take up the general discussion of the budget."

[*Note.*—**An asterick * at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the member.**]

II

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1929-30.

* Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for the clear and lucid exposition of the financial position of the presidency. I congratulate him for the frank and outspoken criticism of those responsible for allowing the grants made in the last budget to lapse. I congratulate him all the more for the bold step he has taken in reducing the debt of this province by about two crores of rupees. I do not know whether there will be criticisms against the hon. the Finance Minister for neutralizing these two crores. In my humble opinion the step he has taken is correct and he has thereby rectified a blunder that has been committed some years ago by borrowing money for expenditure which ought to have been legitimately charged on revenue and not on capital. I hope that such mistakes will not be repeated in future.

" Coming to the income side in the budget, one of the major items of income is excise; and the Government has allowed this item to retain its prominent position, thereby proclaiming the hollowness of the sympathy that the Government professes for the policy of prohibition. I may say that this House and the people of the presidency would have adored and enthroned Government in their hearts if it had been possible for Government to reduce this sinful income and prove their *bonafides* in this matter. But they will not do it

11-45 a.m. because they have not the best interests of the people at heart (hear, hear). Not that they cannot do it; but they will not do it. Sir, the five crores and odd rupees which has been the income from Excise for some years past is not only showing no sign of decrease, but is really on the increase, and this year's budget shows that the Government has an increase of some lakhs of rupees from that item alone. The hon. the Finance Member says in his budget speech that that increase is due partly to an increase in consumption. He gives other reasons also; but so long as this Government professes that they sympathize with the policy of prohibition and so long as the Transferred half is thereto work out this policy of prohibition, I would have expected in the hon. the Finance Member's speech some explanation, some apology for this increase in consumption and this increase in the income from excise. But I carefully went through the speech of the hon. the Finance Member, and I am sorry I have not been able to find any explanation or apology. On the other hand, there is the bare statement that there has been an increase in consumption, and he leaves it there. Well, Sir, we are entitled to demand from this Government an explanation for this: why there has been an increase in the consumption of liquor? Why is it there has been no decrease in revenue from excise? It has been stated in answer to a question put to the hon. the Excise Minister